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Living Springs

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Cedarville College

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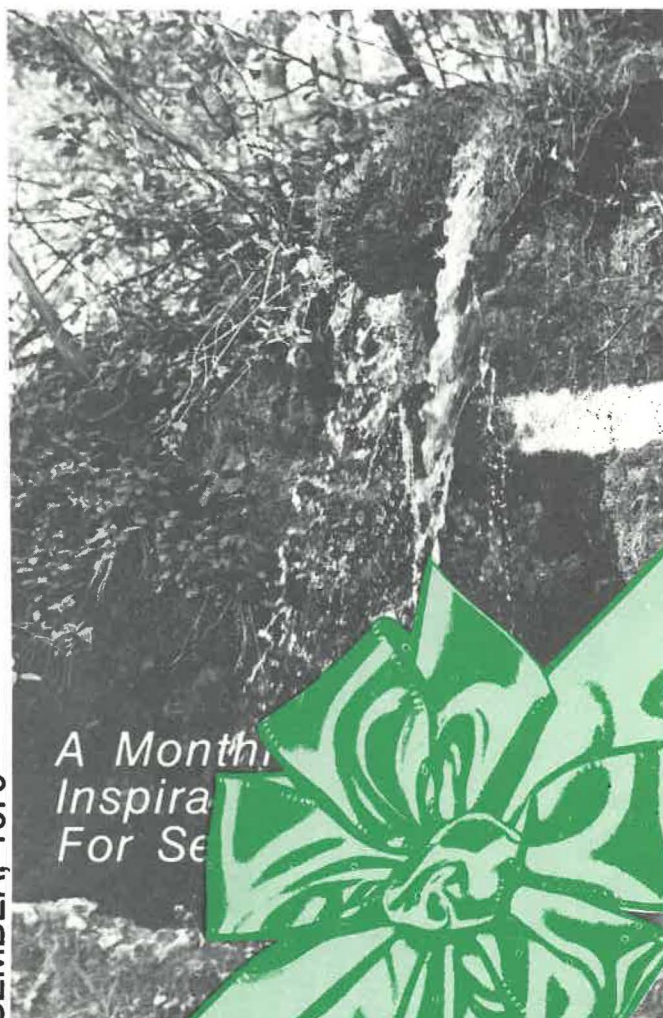
# Living Springs

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A Month  
Inspira  
For Se

DECEMBER, 1979

# SALVATION from the practice of SIN

by  
*Dr. Lehman Strauss*

Receiving salvation is not a stopping-place, but a starting-place. The saved man must "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14); "increase and abound in love" (I Thessalonians 3:12); "go on unto perfection" (Hebrews 6:1); "add to your faith" (II Peter 1:5-7); "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18). Where life begins it must mature, so where there is no process in operation, it is quite likely that there is not a present possession of salvation. No man can be saved from what he is and still remain the same. To be a saved man means to be a changed man. True, our Lord said to the woman taken in adultery, "Neither do I condemn thee," but in the same sentence he added the words, "go and sin no more" (John 8:11).

The Gospel of salvation has ethical consequences and moral responsibilities. Doctrine and deportment are inextricably intertwined with the Christian gospel. Peter wrote, "Who His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24). "That we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness" puts salvation on a practical level here and now. We are expected to live unto righteousness. Salvation is not from sin's penalty only, but from sin. Any omission of the Christian ethic from the Christian Gospel invitation is a misrepresentation of that Gospel. Faith alone saves, but it saves from the power and practice of sin as well as from sin's penalty.

Look carefully at Paul's words to Titus: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age" (Titus 2:11, 12). The saving

purpose of God is stated here both negatively and positively. We are to renounce, repudiate "ungodliness," which means any and all lack of reverence toward God, all irreligion. The person who receives the salvation which God's grace made available to him must lay aside those things in life which are offensive or dishonorable to God. Then, too, he must lay aside "worldly lusts," those passionate desires which possess the character of this present evil world system, because Christ "gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" (Galatians 1:4). The Christian who yields to sinful desires belonging to a world estranged from God blasphemes both God's Word and God's name. Positively, the grace of God that brought salvation teaches us to live "soberly," that is, to be guided by a mind that is set in proper balance, a mind that is mastered by the same grace that saved us from sin's penalty.

Christ is able to save completely all those who draw near to God through Him. There need never be a moment in which His saving power is not effective in the Christian's life. Is your salvation complete? If not, then draw nigh to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. He is able to save. And who are the partakers of this present-tense salvation? Those who draw near to God by Jesus Christ in holy worship.

Paul gave to us another word about our present salvation when he wrote, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God" (I Corinthians 1:18). Here he uses a pair of present participles: "them who are perishing," and "us who are being saved." The force of the present participle is in a process that is still going on. Yes, we are still being saved, and this is proof that we are not as those who are perishing. God's great salvation deals with our needy present as well as our guilty past.





# REFLECTIONS of FAITH

*edited by  
Kathy Jo Kirkbride*

## Christmas

Christmas time is here again  
With all its glitter and gold.  
Brings to our mind once more  
The sweetest story ever told.

The birth of the baby Jesus  
Of many long years ago,  
Who died on the Cross to save us  
From sin-that His Word we might know.

Christmas with all its brightness  
Should mean so much to man;  
More than just its gold and glitter,  
Christ came to earth to save all men.

So let's remember this Christmas  
With all its glitter and gold;  
The birth of the Baby Jesus  
And the sweetest story ever told.  
*C.F. Bartlett*

## The Virgin Birth

Such a unique moment; a time of unusualness;  
A time which man has no explanation for;  
An act directed by a holy, powerful God  
Towards the unregenerate man.  
This was the virgin birth.

Such a joyful time, a time of singing of angels,  
A time of shepherds worshipping and  
Wisemen searching for a King.  
This the the virgin birth...  
The birth of our Messiah!





## **What is Christmas For?**

by  
*Loanna Hamilton*

Christmas should be a time of rejoicing and a time of celebrating our Saviour's birth. But often God and His Son are not in our thoughts. Christmas is just another holiday, a time to get together with friends and family and have a good time. How can we put what God did in proper perspective and ponder and worship our Saviour and King? How can Christ be the subject of our thoughts at Christmas time?

First, we can think back to the first Christmas and find what Christmas is really about. God had a plan to save mankind from sin, and in that plan His Son was to die for mankind. For Christ to die, He had to become man; he had to become a finite being. For Christ to come as a man, He had to be born. This is what Christmas is—Christ's birth.

Now, if Christmas is the time of Christ's birth, it ought to be a time of thinking about Him. It can be a time of worship and thanksgiving. We worship God in our spirit by seeking after Him (Acts 17:27). Certainly we can seek God by meditating on the miracle of His Son's birth and on what a sacrificing act it was for Him to become a man. Christ's birth was a miracle because it was of a virgin (Luke 1:26-31). It was a sacrifice because Christ left His throne to become human and finite. He left the highest position possible to become a servant (Phil. 2:7-8). Surely in this seeking experience we can see God's power and

infinite love. We can find a portion of who God is.

Then, through this worshipping of God and thinking about Him, we can be so overwhelmed with the thought of Him that we cannot help but praise and thank Him. Our reaction will be as Paul's was in expressing it as an "unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15). What a gift—to have God down among us as one of us, to eventually die for us!

As we celebrate Christmas, every aspect of it should cause us to think of Christ. When we give and receive gifts, we can think of the Gift that was given to us. As we gather with family and friends and enjoy good food and fun, it can be done joyously as we think about God's love and provision for us. As we sing hymns and carols, we can ponder the words and think of Christ, and we can rejoice in the merry tunes. When we shop for others, let it be done with a loving heart, not one that thinks of it as a chore, for what chore is it compared to what Christ did for us and gave up for us?

Since Christmas is a time to remember an act of God, it should be a time centered around Him . instead of ignoring Him. Everything we do should be done out of love. Everything we experience should turn our thoughts to Him. We need not get wrapped up and lost in the rush and business of Christmas; instead, all that rushing can be done in love and all the celebrating can be about Christ.



# Senior

by Paul

## Daily Walk Through God's Word

"I will delight myself in thy statutes; I will not forget thy Word." Psalm 119:16.

December	Morning Hosea	Evening Psalm
1	1,2	120
2	3,4	121
3	5,6	122
4	7,8	123
5	9,10	124
6	11,12	125
7	13,14	126
8	Joel	127
9	Amos	
	1,2	128
10	3,4	129
11	5,6	130
12	7,8	131
13	Obadiah	132
14	Jonah	133
	Micah	
15	1,2	134
16	3,4	135
17	5,6,7	136
18	Nahum	137
19	Habakkuk	138
20	Zephaniah	139
21	Haggai	140
	Zechariah	
22	1,2	141
23	3,4	142
24	5,6	143
25	7,8	144
26	9,10	145
27	11,12	146
28	12,14	147
	Malachi	
29	1	148
30	2	149
31	3,4	150

The Pastor's wife was busy about her daily duties. It was mid-morning. The children were off to school and the baby had gone back to sleep.

Just as she started to vacuum the floor, the phone rang. The caller spoke first as the receiver was lifted: "Good morning, it surely is a beautiful winter day." The pastor's wife answered, "Yes, the sun glistening on the snow makes everything look like a winter fairyland." The caller continued, "I wish it would have been possible for me to get out to church Sunday, but this weather has me closed indoors most of the time—but I was praying. I called to see if I could do some sewing and ironing for you. Pastor can drop it by; then I'll call you when it's finished." The pastor's wife thanked the caller for her prayer support and her willingness to help with the



# Servants

Gathany

sewing and ironing.

The caller was an elderly widow lady, known by everyone in the local congregation as Grandma Archer. She was a faithful servant of the Lord as she worked behind the scenes. She was a special servant and Grandma to the pastor's family as she helped with some necessary chores.

Often when the Pastor picked up the sewing and ironing, Grandma Archer would have a fresh batch of Sour Cream Cookies ready for him to take home. Her cheerful spirit and willingness to serve was a constant encouragement in the Pastor's home.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17).

## Note Worthy

by  
James Ebel

Felix Mendelssohn and Charles Wesley, a Jew and a Methodist, were probably two unlikely people to be associated with the same great Christmas carol, but here's the way it happened.

Charles Wesley was saved May 20, 1738, and after that time he is credited with writing some 6500 hymns! In 1739 he wrote a poem which particularly expressed his joy in the Christian faith. It originally began: "Hark! how all the welkin rings, Glory to the King of Kings, peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Of course, you can guess the well-known Christmas carol which poets have changed into modern wording.

In 1840, Felix Mendelssohn wrote a piece of music to celebrate the discovery of printing. He never would have imagined his tune as a Christmas carol; as a matter of fact, he said it would never do for sacred words. He considered this a secular tune and never would have guessed that in the future it would be compared with his oratorio "Elijah." Little did he know what was about to become of it. In 1855, Dr. Cummings set Wesley's well-known words to Mendelssohn's tune and the result was that favorite among Christmas carols—"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing."

### Verse For The Month:

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

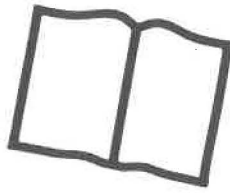
Luke 2:11

### Thought For The Month

The joy of the world is transient; the joy of Heaven is transcendent.



# Light for Living



by Dr. James T. Jeremiah

A LOOK AT  
THE BOOK

A new minister came to a city church. He was a liberal and began to speak disparagingly of portions of the Bible. As time passed, the faith of some in the eternal verities of God's Word was undermined. One day a prominent member of his church sent for him. The man was dying! "Shall I read to you a little from the Bible and pray with you?" "Yes," said the dying man.

The wife brought the minister a Bible. As he opened it, he beheld a most unusual sight: some Books were missing. Some pages were torn out. Some chapters were gone. Some verses were cut out! It was a shamefully mangled Bible! "Have you not a better Bible than this one?" exclaimed the startled liberal. Accusingly, the dying man said, "When you came to this parish, I had a WHOLE Bible! But whenever you told us that a Book was fiction, I tore it out of my Bible. When you told us that a chapter was not true, I removed it from my Bible. When you told us that some of the stories were fables, I cut them out, too! There is little of my Bible left except the two covers!"

In contrast to this sad story, hear the testimony of Samuel Chadwick who believed every chapter and verse in the Book was of great value. He wrote: "I have guided my life by the Bible for more than sixty years, and I tell you there is no book like it. It is a miracle of literature, a perennial spring of wisdom, a wonder of surprises, a revelation of mystery, an infallible guide of conduct, and an unspeakable source of comfort. Pay no attention to people who discredit it, for I tell you that they speak without knowledge. It is the Word of God itself. Study it according to its own direction. Live by its principles. Believe its message. Follow its precepts. No man is uneducated who knows the Bible, and no one is wise who is ignorant of its teachings."

"The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?" (Jer. 8:9).

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods

came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" (Matt. 7:24,25).

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (1 Cor. 2:12,13).

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16,17).

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## Let's Chatter

by

**About a Matter**

Mark Highman

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Dear Readers and Subscribers of Living Springs:

It is hard to believe, but I sit at my desk this evening and pen my last article for the paper and audience that I have grown to love. Here I am a senior; in a few weeks I will be out of college and ready to enter seminary—and three years of exciting and trying work on this staff is about to conclude. I feel very emotional and my heart is saddened.

Living Springs was a baby when I first started on its staff. I was a freshman in my third quarter. The paper had just started under the direction of Cedarville College Christian Service Department and Joyce Coleman. I was a writer.

Then the years flew. I came back my sophomore year, was elected editor of the paper, and have struggled to see this paper grow and mature to what it is today. It was not easy, but the Lord was gracious, and Living Springs grew!

But really, I do not leave you, for if you are born again I shall see you in glory! That excites me! Even now I look forward to that day. Let me know if you were blessed with Living Springs!

I leave with you only this: "Trust ye in the Lord forever; for in your Lord God is everlasting strength." Hold dear to our Lord; He is your strength and shield in time of need. We all need Him!

May the Lord bless each and every one of you.

Because He Lives,  
Mark J. Highman



# Quizzle

by  
Bob King

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2: 11, 12.

Find the words from the Bible verses in this word search. They may be vertical, horizontal, backwards, forwards, or diagonal.

D E P P A R W S O T N U  
M L Y I N G R T H N I R  
S E H T O L C E W I R G  
S H A L L S A A Y S E N  
I N K E T A N I O H G I  
C G B N Q V I N U A N L  
P A C H R I S T C L A D  
B E Q S C O D L I L M D  
W O X I H R A A T H A A  
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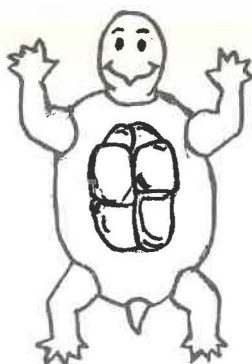
## Looking At God's Creation

by  
Teresa Galbreath

Did you know that, although most turtles are slow, lumbering creatures, the smooth softshell turtle can outrun a man on level ground? Were you aware that the turtle has the longest life span of any vertebrate? These are just a few of the interesting facts about the turtle. The most unique characteristic of the turtle is that it is the only reptile with its own protective coat of armor, a shell.

The turtle's shell is composed of two layers. The inner layer is made up of bony plates and is part of the skeleton, while the outer layer is formed from skin tissue conglomerated into hard shields.

Why does the turtle have a shell? When the turtle senses imminent danger, he draws his head, legs, and tail into his shell. In this position he appears to be a rock, blending into the surroundings, avoiding danger. Also, the hard shell protects the turtle from blows



thrown by an attacker. The shell is so strong that it can support weight two hundred times that of the turtle, which is comparable to a man supporting an elephant.

Some Christians are like turtles in that they draw into their shells when faced with persecution and criticism concerning their beliefs from unbelievers. Christ admonishes his followers not to draw into their shells but to be testimonies in word and deed.

In Matthew 5:16 Christ commands, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Christians have the responsibility of living a clean life before the world. They must not draw into a shell of sinful living before the unsaved.

Besides living a shining life, Christians must also witness with their mouths. I Peter 3:15 says "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..." Too many Christians draw into a shell of fear when it comes to speaking up for Christ. By claiming God's promises, Christians can overcome fear of witnessing.



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*But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

*John 4:14*

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